

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN



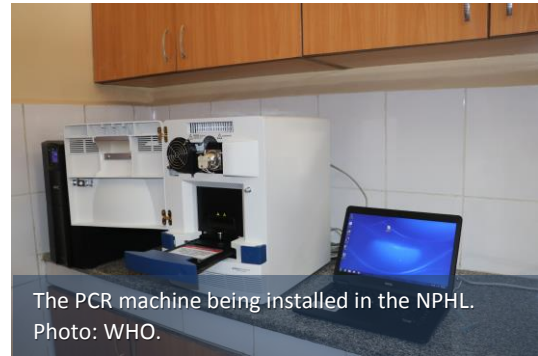
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Weekly Update on Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) Preparedness for South Sudan

Update # 36
Date: 10 May 2019

1. Highlights of the week

- The Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) machine at the National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) was installed and calibrated. The machine will be used for testing influenza; and upon receipt of the necessary EVD supplies (glove box and reagents) EVD testing will be conducted. To facilitate this WHO has engaged a consultant for Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVI) to mentor lab personnel in NPHL. The UVRI will also provide backstopping for further technical capacity building and external quality control.
- A total of 470 frontline and health care workers in Jubek state have now been vaccinated. The cumulative number of frontline health workers vaccinated nationally to date is 2,374.
- Solidarity International established temporary holding points in 15 health care facilities in Nimule.



The PCR machine being installed in the NPHL. Photo: WHO.

2. Ebola Situation update from North Kivu of Democratic Republic of Congo

- As of 6 May 2019, a total of 1,585 cases and 1,055 deaths (case fatality ratio of 67%) have been reported.
- Some 90 new cases and 71 deaths were reported from 1st to 6th May 2019, indicating that the outbreak is not under control. Figure 1 below shows the trend of new Ebola cases from 17 March to 5 May 2019.

Figure 1: Epi-cure of Ebola virus disease in Democratic Republic of Congo by date of onset

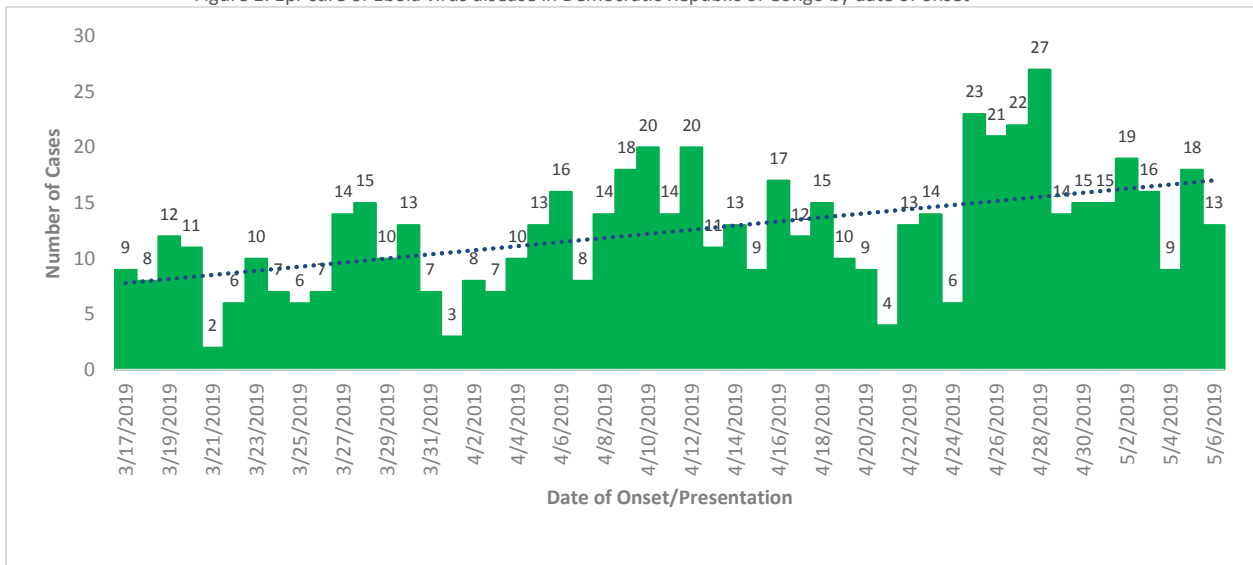
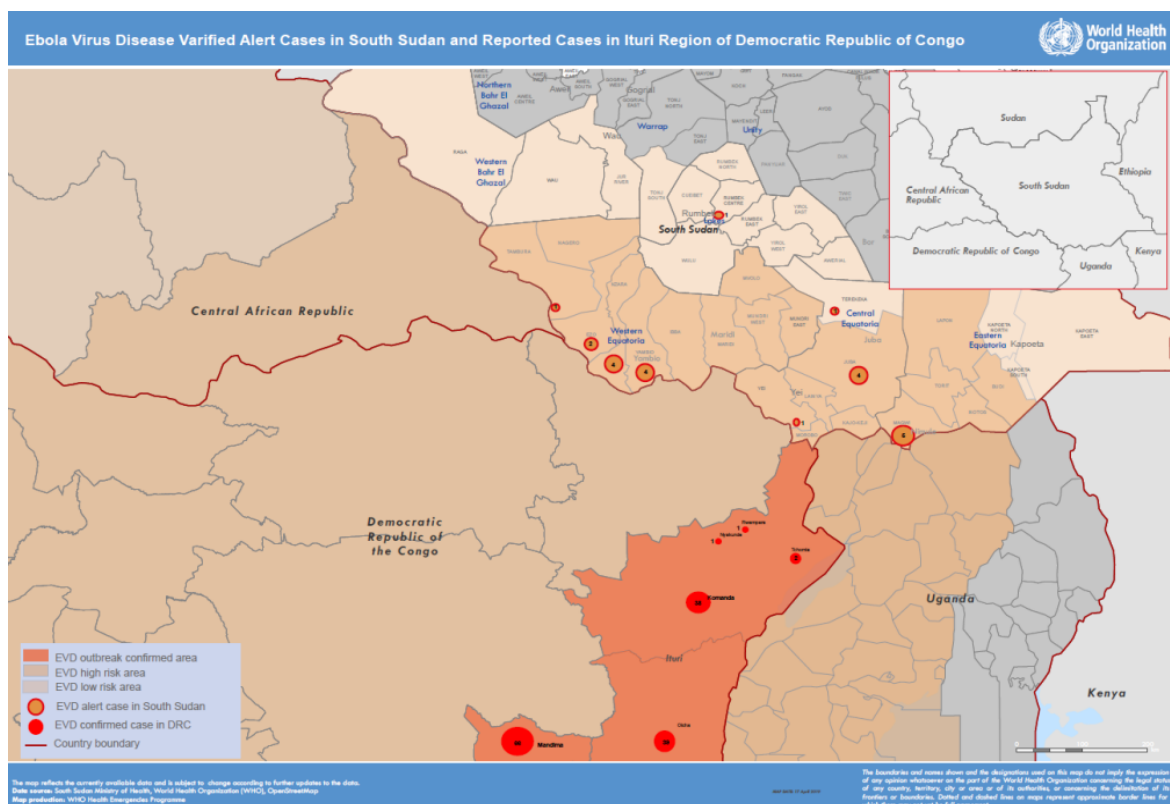


Figure 2: map showing Ebola virus disease verified alerts in South Sudan and reported cases in DRC



3. Public Health Preparedness and Readiness

3.1. Coordination and personnel deployment

- The National Task Force (NTF) conducted a meeting on 08 May 2019 at the Public Health Emergency Operation Centre (PHEOC). Similar coordination meetings were conducted by Ebola taskforces in Jubek, Yambio, Yei and Nimule states.
- Weekly meetings were also conducted by the Technical Working Groups with the aim of providing technical guidance and support to the respective preparedness pillars.

3.2. Resource mobilization

- The NTF published a second National EVD Preparedness Plan, April –September 2019. The plan costed at around US\$ 12 million, the purpose of the plan is to optimized EVD preparedness and response by implementing proven prioritized activities.
- Some US \$12.8 million (78%) was mobilized against the first National EVD Preparedness Plan from August 2018 – March 2019. This plan was costed at US \$16.3 million, leaving a gap of 12% unfunded.

3.3. EPI/Surveillance and Laboratory

- International Medical Corps (IMC) completed three-day training for 30 laboratory staff in Jubek state, to enhance capacity of laboratory personnel for the safe handling of suspected EVD samples.
- The EPI/Surveillance and Laboratory TWG drafted a checklist for supportive supervision at health facilities, with inputs from the infection prevention and control (IPC/WASH) and risk communication TWGs. The purpose of the supportive supervision is to provide real time feedback and support to the health workers at any given facility regarding the extent and quality of preparedness measures being implemented.
- A Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) machine was installed at the Public Health Laboratory and a test run for influenza successfully carried out. However, some very important supplies that are required for confirmatory testing for EVD are still pending delivery.

3.4. Port Health and Screening

- Some 75,456 incoming travelers were screened for EVD at 30 points of entry, bringing the cumulative number of travellers screened since August 2018 to 2,060,346. See table 1 below for more information.
- As part of efforts to ensure the quality of screening at points of entry, IOM conducted a monitoring and supervision visits in Kajo-keji and Morobo counties bordering with Democratic Republic of Congo.

Table 1: Summary of screenings from 30 points of entry

Primary screened		Secondary screened		Alerts	
Reporting Week	Cumulative	Reporting Week	Cumulative	Reporting Week	Cumulative
75,426	2,060,346	46	626	0	19 generated, 6 met case definition

3.5. Case Management, Infection Prevention, and Control/WASH and Safe and Dignified Burial

- Twenty-six (26) frontline health workers were trained on basic infection prevention and control, and screening, by International Medical Corps (IMC).
- Oxfam installed 11 hand-washing stations in 6 health facilities and 5 schools in Wau municipality.

3.6. Risk communication, community engagement and social mobilization (RCCE&SM)

- Community engagement activities, rumor tracking, and radio broadcasts are ongoing in the field.
- Following requests by the TWG and NTF, Anthrologica (SSHAP Network) conducted a rapid evidence review on socio-economic/cultural dynamics related to bush meat. The first draft of the report has been received by UNICEF (on behalf of the TWG) and is under review. The final version should be available within the next 7-10 days, and will be used to inform activities and messaging on bush meat.

3.7. Logistics

- Conduct final Isolation Unit assessment in Yambio.
- Mobilized contractors to implement the recommendation of the joint monitoring team visit to the isolation centres in Nimule, Yambio and Yei.
- Airlifted Mobile Storage Unit (MSU) to support the EVD preparedness activities in Nimule.

3.8. Vaccines and Therapeutics

- EVD vaccination in Jubek States is ongoing. As of reporting date a total of 470 frontline health workers in Jubek State have now been vaccinated. To date a total of 2, 374 frontline health workers vaccinated have received the vaccine. So far there is serious adverse effect reported.

4. Challenges/Gaps

- Access to areas outside Yei River County is a challenge due to insecurity.
- Limited joint supportive supervision of health facilities from national to state level. The joint supportive supervision started in Juba last week, and the checklist tool remains under finalisation.
- Long porous border with Ituri Province of Democratic Republic of Congo and the likelihood of importation of EVD into the Republic of South Sudan.

Donors and partners involved in EVD preparedness and readiness

MOH, Germany, USAID/OFDA, CERF, SSHF, DIFD, ECHO, GAVI, UNICEF, HPF, Canada, WHO and UNHCR, World Bank, JICA, IRC, IFRC, DFCA, AAH, ACROSS, AMLIMA, AMREF, ARC, CDC, CMMB, CONCERN, COPE, CORDAID, CUAMM, ECSS, GOAL, HELP, HLSS, IFRC, IMC-UK, Internews, IOM, MEDIAR, MSF, OXFAM, REACH, SAC, Samaritan's Purse, Save the Children, Solidarity International, SPLA, Ministry of Interior, SDDO, SSRC, SSUHA, TRISS, UMCOR, UNCHR, UNDP, UNICEF, UNMISS, UNOCHA, WFP, WHO, WVSS.

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